

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT TACOMA

CERTAIN UNDERWRITERS AT LLOYD'S,
LONDON SUBSCRIBING TO PROFESSIONAL
LIABILITY POLICY SUA 12139,

NO.

COMPLAINT FOR RESCISSION AND DECLARATION OF JUDGMENT

Plaintiffs

v.
NOTEWORLD, LLC, NOTEWORLD COMPANY,
INC., NOTEWORLD WASHINGTON, INC.,
NOTEWORLD CALIFORNIA, INC., NOTEWORLD
FINANCIAL LLC and NOTEWORLD SERVICING
SYSTEMS, INC..

Defendants.

Plaintiffs, Certain Underwriters at Lloyd's, London Subscribing to Professional Services Liability Policy SUA 12139 ("Underwriters"), by and through their counsel, assert the following allegations and causes of action against Defendants, NoteWorld, LLC, NoteWorld Company, Inc., NoteWorld Washington, Inc., NoteWorld California, Inc., NoteWorld Financial LLC, and NoteWorld Servicing Systems, Inc. (collectively, "NoteWorld" or "NoteWorld Insureds"):

**COMPLAINT FOR RESCISSION AND
DECLARATION OF JUDGMENT - 1 of 14**

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NATURE OF ACTION AND SUMMARY

1. On information and belief, NoteWorld is in the business of payment servicing, consisting of, among other things, collecting, processing and disbursing payments on behalf of customers and debt reduction companies.

2. Underwriters seek to rescind Professional Services Liability Policy Certificate No. SUA 12139, issued to NoteWorld effective November 30, 2009 (the "Policy"), because NoteWorld induced Underwriters to issue the Policy by misrepresenting and concealing the existence of numerous lawsuits that had been filed against NoteWorld LLC and/or other NoteWorld Insureds.

3. When applying for the Policy in 2009, with an intent to deceive Underwriters, NoteWorld failed to disclose at least nineteen prior professional liability claims against NoteWorld LLC and/or NoteWorld Insureds, including at least one consumer class action lawsuit.

4. In the Application for the Policy, Underwriters asked NoteWorld whether any professional liability claims or suits had been brought against NoteWorld, any predecessor company or any proposed insured, to which NoteWorld responded "no."

5. In issuing the Policy to NoteWorld, Underwriters relied upon the false statements of material fact in the Application. If NoteWorld had submitted to Underwriters truthful and accurate insurance applications, Underwriters would not have issued the Policy, or would have done so on materially different terms.

6. Underwriters seek a declaration from this Court, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2201, that Professional Services Liability Policy SUA 12139 issued to NoteWorld is rescinded and is void *ab initio*.

**COMPLAINT FOR RESCISSION AND
DECLARATION OF JUDGMENT - 2 of 14**

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THE PARTIES

7. On information and belief, defendants, NoteWorld Company, Inc., NoteWorld California, Inc., NoteWorld Washington, Inc., and NoteWorld Servicing Systems, Inc., are corporations organized and existing pursuant to the laws of the State of Washington; defendants, NoteWorld LLC and NoteWorld Financial, LLC, are corporations organized and existing pursuant to the laws of the State of Delaware; and NoteWorld LLC has its principal place of business in Tacoma, Washington.

8. Underwriters are members of Lloyd's Syndicate Nos. 3000, 1084, 1274, 4444 and 1400 that subscribe to the Policy, each is a corporation and none is incorporated or maintains its principal place of business in the States of Washington or Delaware.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

9. Jurisdiction is proper in this Court, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332 (a), because there is complete diversity of citizenship between the Plaintiffs and each of the Defendants, and the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs.

10. Venue is proper in this District, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(a)(2), because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to Underwriters' claims for declaratory judgment occurred in this District.

11. This Court also has jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2201 and Rule 57 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure because there is an actual controversy between the parties.

**COMPLAINT FOR RESCISSION AND
DECLARATION OF JUDGMENT - 3 of 14**

UNDERWRITERS' POLICY

12. The Policy is a claims made professional liability policy under which coverage applies to professional liability claims first made during the policy period. The Insuring Clause of the Policy provides:

13. The Policy affords coverage for the period November 30, 2009 to November 30, 2010. As set forth in Item 3 of the Declarations, the Policy has a \$3,000,000 Aggregate Limit of Liability for each Policy Period, including Defense Costs. The Policy is subject to a \$25,000 Retention for each Claim pursuant to Item 4 of the Policy Declarations. The Policy is also subject to a Retroactive Date of November 30, 2007, as set forth in Item 6 of the Policy Declarations, and a Coverage Date of November 30, 2007, as set forth in Item 7 of the Policy Declarations. A true and correct copy of the Policy is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

I. INSURING AGREEMENT

The Company will pay on behalf of the **INSURED LOSS** in excess of the Retention stated in Item 4 of the Declarations which the **INSURED** shall become legally obligated to pay as a result of any **CLAIM** first made against the **INSURED** during the **POLICY PERIOD** for a **WRONGFUL ACT** that occurred on or after the Retroactive Date stated in Item 6 of the Declarations.

14. In the Section IV of the Policy (“Definitions”), the terms **CLAIM** and **WRONGFUL ACT** are defined as follows:

B. "WRONGFUL ACT" means any actual or alleged negligent act, negligent error or negligent omission committed by the **INSURED** solely in the performance of or failure to perform professional services for others in the **INSURED'S** Profession as stated in Item 1.A. of the Declarations

* * *

F. “CLAIM” means a written demand for money damages received by an **INSURED**, including service of suit and institution of administrative or arbitration proceedings.

**COMPLAINT FOR RESCISSION AND
DECLARATION OF JUDGMENT - 4 of 14**

1 15. Item 1.A of the Policy, as amended by endorsement, identifies the
2 Insured's business or profession as: "LOAN SERVICER/ESCROW AGENT/ PAYMENT
3 PROCESSOR."

4 16. The Policy is the third of three consecutive Professional Services Liability
5 Policies issued to NoteWorld by Underwriters. Underwriters issued Professional Services
6 Liability Policy SUA 11342 to NoteWorld for the Policy Period November 30, 2007 to
7 November 30, 2008 (the "2007 Policy"). Underwriters issued Professional Services
8 Liability Policy SUA 11866 to NoteWorld for the Policy Period November 30, 2008 to
9 November 30, 2009 (the "2008 Policy").

10 17. The 2007 Policy and the 2008 Policy contain the same Insuring
11 Agreement, the same Definitions of "Wrongful Act" and "Claim," and the same description
12 of the Insured's business or profession as the Policy.

13 18. Section VII of the Policy ("General Conditions") states:

14 **VII. GENERAL CONDITIONS**

15 **A. APPLICATION**

16 By acceptance of this Policy, all **INSUREDS** agree as follows:

17 1. The particulars and statements contained in this
18 application, a copy of which is attached hereto, and any
19 materials submitted therewith (which are on file with the
20 Company and are deemed attached hereto, as if physically
21 attached hereto) are true and are the basis of the Policy
22 and are to be considered as incorporated into and
constituting a part of this Policy;

23 2. the statements in the applications and in any materials
24 submitted therewith are the **INSUREDS'** representations
25 and shall be deemed material to the acceptance of the
risk or the hazard assumed by the Company under this
Policy and this Policy is issued in reliance upon the truth of
such representations;

26 **COMPLAINT FOR RESCISSION AND
DECLARATION OF JUDGMENT - 5 of 14**

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3. in the event the application, including materials submitted therewith, contains any misrepresentation made with the actual intent to deceive or contains any misrepresentation that materially affects either the acceptance of the risk or the hazard assumed by the Company under this Policy, this Policy shall be void in its entirety and of no effect whatsoever; and
4. this Policy shall be deemed to be a single unitary contract and not a severable contract of insurance or a series of individual contracts with each of the INSUREDS.

TENDER OF CLAIMS IN 2010

19. On March 24, 2010, NoteWorld provided notice to Underwriters of a Complaint filed against, among others, NoteWorld, LLC d/b/a NoteWorld Servicing Center, on behalf of a purported class of Washington consumers in a matter captioned: *Doyle Wheeler and Carrie Wheeler, etc. v. Freedom Debt Center et al.* which was filed in the Superior Court for the State of Washington on January 15, 2010, and is identified as Case No. 10200225-6. NoteWorld also provided notice to Underwriters that on June 24, 2010, a lawsuit was filed by the same plaintiffs against, among others, NoteWorld, LLC d/b/a NoteWorld Servicing Center, on behalf of a purported class of Washington consumers, which was filed in the United States District Court for Eastern District of Washington, is captioned: *Doyle Wheeler and Carrie Wheeler, etc. v. NoteWorld, LLC et al.* and is identified as Case No. CV 10-202.

20. On August 24, 2010, NoteWorld provided notice to Underwriters of a Complaint filed against, among others, NoteWorld, LLC d/b/a NoteWorld Servicing Center, on behalf of a purported class of Washington consumers in a matter captioned: *Dianne Morefield v. NoteWorld, LLC*, which was filed in the Superior Court for Richmond County, Georgia, and is identified as Civil Action No. 2010 RCCV 550. On March 2, 2011, NoteWorld provided notice to Underwriters that the law firm representing the Morefield

**COMPLAINT FOR RESCISSION AND
DECLARATION OF JUDGMENT - 6 of 14**

1 plaintiffs had filed a federal action against NoteWorld, LLC, and that the federal action
2 contains the “same causes of action and the same allegations” as the Morefield Georgia
3 State action. The federal action is captioned: *Hattie Burke v. NoteWorld, LLC dba*
4 *NoteWorld Serving Center*, was filed in the United States District Court for the Southern
5 District of Georgia on February 25, 2011 and is identified as Case No. 1:11-cv-00029.
6

7 **MISREPRESENTATIONS OF MATERIAL FACTS**
IN THE APPLICATIONS FOR UNDERWRITERS' POLICY

8 21. NoteWorld submitted to Underwriters an application for insurance coverage
9 dated November 8, 2009, signed by Linda Remsberg, the sole owner, President and CEO
10 of NoteWorld, LLC (the “Application”).
11

12 22. NoteWorld also submitted to Underwriters a supplemental application for
13 insurance coverage dated November 30, 2009, also signed by Linda Remsberg.
14

15 23. The Policy states, in Section VII. A., that the application is part of the Policy.
16 A true and correct copy of the Policy is attached hereto as Exhibit A. True and correct
17 copies of the Application and Supplemental Application attached to and are a part of the
18 Policy.
19

20 24. NoteWorld made material misrepresentations of fact in the Application and
21 the Supplemental Application for the Policy and was aware, at the time of execution and
22 submission, that such information was false.
23

24 **KNOWING MATERIAL MISREPRESENTATIONS**
IN ANSWER TO QUESTION 39 OF THE APPLICATION

25 25. Question No. 39. of the Application inquires:

26 39. Has any professional liability claim or suit ever been
brought against the Applicant and/or any predecessor
company and/or any person proposed to be insured?

**COMPLAINT FOR RESCISSION AND
DECLARATION OF JUDGMENT - 7 of 14**

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1 [Answer:] No

2 If "Yes," How many?

3 [Answer blank]

4 If "Yes, please complete a Claim supplement/Potential
5 Claim Supplement for each.

6 [None submitted].

7 26. Prior to the inception of the Policy on November 30, 2009, at least 19
8 lawsuits, including at least one consumer class action, had been made against one or
9 more of the NoteWorld Insureds and/or their predecessors in business.

10 27. At the time of the submission of the Application, Remsberg and certain
11 other officers and employees of NoteWorld knew of the existence of those lawsuits and,
12 with intent to deceive Underwriters, NoteWorld concealed that information in response to
13 question 39 of the Application.

14 28. NoteWorld's prior claim history was material to Underwriters' evaluation of
15 the risk assumed. If NoteWorld had submitted to Underwriters truthful and accurate
16 information in response to Question 39 of the Application, Underwriters would not have
17 issued the Policy, or would have done so on materially different terms.

19 **KNOWING MATERIAL MISREPRESENTATIONS**
20 **IN ANSWER TO QUESTION 40 B OF THE APPLICATION**

21 29. Question No. 40 b of the Application inquires:

22 40. Does the applicant or any predecessor in business or
23 any of the past or present partners Officers, Directors or
employees have any reasonable basis:

24 * * *

25 b. to believe that the applicant or any predecessor in
26 business or any of the past or present partners Officers,
Directors or employees are aware of any circumstances,
incidents or situations during the last five years which may

**COMPLAINT FOR RESCISSION AND
DECLARATION OF JUDGMENT - 8 of 14**

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1 result in claims being made against the applicant or any of
2 the past or present partners Officers, Directors or employees
3 or former employees?

4 30. In response to Question No. 40 b of the Application, NoteWorld answered
5 "No."

6 31. At the time of the submission of the Application, Remsberg and certain
7 other officers and employees of NoteWorld knew of the existence of at least 19 lawsuits
8 against NoteWorld, including at least one consumer class action and, with intent to
9 deceive Underwriters, NoteWorld concealed that information in response to question 40
10 b of the Application.

11 32. NoteWorld's prior claim history was material to Underwriters' evaluation of
12 the risk assumed. If NoteWorld had submitted to Underwriters truthful and accurate
13 information in response to Question 40 b of the Application, Underwriters would not have
14 issued the Policy, or would have done so on materially different terms.

15 **MATERIAL MISREPRESENTATIONS IN THE WARRANTY STATEMENTS
16 OF THE APPLICATION AND THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION**

17 33. The Application signed by Remsberg on behalf of NoteWorld contains the
18 following representations and warranties:

19 The undersigned authorized person, on behalf of the
20 applicant attest[s] that all claims have been reported if
21 applicant is aware of them. The Applicant further
22 understands that any claim submitted after completion of
23 this application shall render any terms provided void and
24 Underwriters shall have the right to re-underwrite the
25 Applicant. In addition, no information provided by this
Application or submitted with this Application shall be
deemed to report a claim. Such notice should be made as
instructed by the policy.

26 The undersigned authorized person, on behalf of the
applicant, attests that to the best of his or her knowledge or

**COMPLAINT FOR RESCISSION AND
DECLARATION OF JUDGMENT - 9 of 14**

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1 belief, the statements set forth herein are true. Although the
 2 signing of this Application Form does not bind the
 3 undersigned to effect Insurance, the undersigned agrees
 4 that this application and the said statements shall be the
 basis of the policy of insurance and shall be deemed
 incorporated therein, should the Company evidence its
 acceptance of this application by issuance of a policy.

5 The undersigned person on behalf of the applicant declares
 6 that the above statements are true, that neither the
 7 undersigned applicant nor the applicant has suppressed or
 8 misstated any facts and that at the present time the
 9 applicant has no reason to anticipate any claims being
 10 brought against the applicant or any representative of the
 11 applicant and that or knowledge of any negligent act error,
 omission or offense on the applicant's part or any
 representative of the applicant except as stated herein and
 agrees that this Application Form shall be the basis of the
 contract between the Applicant and the Company and shall
 be deemed a part hereof.

12
 13 34. The Supplemental Application signed by Remsberg on behalf of NoteWorld
 14 on November 30, 2009 contains the same representations and warranties quoted in
 15 paragraph 33 hereof.

16 35. The representations and warranties contained in both the Application and
 17 the Supplemental Application were knowingly false when made because NoteWorld knew
 18 of the existence of at least 19 prior claims that had not been disclosed to Underwriters.

19
 20 **COUNT I**

21 **RESCISSION OF THE POLICY**

22 36. Underwriters reallege and incorporate herein each and every allegation
 23 made in Paragraphs 1 through 35, above.

24 37. When applying for the Policy, with an intent to deceive Underwriters,
 25 NoteWorld misrepresented, concealed and omitted material facts in the Application and
 26 Supplemental Application with regard to its prior claim history.

**COMPLAINT FOR RESCISSION AND
 DECLARATION OF JUDGMENT - 10 of 14**

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1 38. Underwriters issued the Policy in reliance upon the truth, completeness
2 and accuracy of the information contained in the Application and Supplemental
3 Application submitted by NoteWorld.

4 39. The misrepresentations, concealments and omissions in the Application
5 and Supplemental Application are material to the risk NoteWorld sought to insure.

6 40. NoteWorld benefited from the misrepresentations, concealments and
7 omissions in the Application and Supplemental Application, in that NoteWorld obtained a
8 Policy of insurance to which it was not entitled, or on terms materially different than those
9 to which Underwriters would have agreed had such facts been fully and accurately
10 disclosed.

11 41. Had NoteWorld provided truthful, accurate and complete information in the
12 Application and the Supplemental Application, Underwriters would not have issued the
13 Policy, or would have done so on materially different terms.

14 42. As a result of its reliance upon NoteWorld's misrepresentations and
15 omissions of material facts, Underwriters are entitled to rescind the Policy as to all
16 Insureds. Underwriters are providing notice of this rescission to NoteWorld and are
17 returning and/or tendering all premiums paid as required by applicable law.

18 43. Underwriters have performed or NoteWorld has waived all conditions
19 precedent to the filing of this action.

20 44. Underwriters have no adequate remedy at law that would place
21 Underwriters and NoteWorld in the positions they were before the Policy was issued to
22 NoteWorld.

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**COMPLAINT FOR RESCISSION AND
DECLARATION OF JUDGMENT - 11 of 14**

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COUNT II

**DECLARATION OF UNDERWRITERS' CONTRACTUAL RIGHT TO
VOID OR RE-UNDERWRITE THE POLICY**

45. Underwriters reallege and incorporate herein each and every allegation made in Paragraphs 1 through 44 above.

46. Section VII. A. of the Policy states in relevant part:

By acceptance of this Policy, all **INSUREDS** agree as follows:

* * *

3. in the event the application, including materials submitted therewith, contains any misrepresentation made with the actual intent to deceive or contains any misrepresentation that materially affects either the acceptance of the risk or the hazard assumed by the Company under this Policy, this Policy shall be void in its entirety and of no effect whatsoever;

47. The Policy is void in its entirety and of no effect whatsoever because the Application and Supplemental Application contain misrepresentations made with the actual intent to deceive, and because they affected the acceptance of the risk and the hazard assumed by the Underwriters under the Policy.

48. The Application and the Supplemental Application of the Policy state in part as follows:

The undersigned authorized person, on behalf of the applicant attest[s] that all claims have been reported if applicant is aware of them. The Applicant further understands that any claim submitted after completion of this application shall render any terms provided void and Underwriters shall have the right to re-underwrite the Applicant.

* * *

49. Based on the language contained in the Application and the Supplemental Application of the Policy, the discovery of known but undisclosed claims after the Policy's

**COMPLAINT FOR RESCISSION AND
DECLARATION OF JUDGMENT - 12 of 14**

1 inception entitle Underwriters to re-underwrite and revise the Policy based on the true
2 risks.

3 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, Certain Underwriters at Lloyd's, London Subscribing to
4 Professional Services Liability Policy SUA 12139, pray for judgment declaring that:

5 A. The Policy is rescinded, that the Policy is void *ab initio* and without legal
6 force or effect, and that Underwriters have no obligation or duty to provide
7 coverage for any claims presently asserted or that may be asserted under
8 the Policy.

9 B. In the alternative, by its terms, Underwriters have the right to re-underwrite
10 the Policy based on the true facts.

11 C. Such other relief as the Court deems equitable and just.

12 Dated: May 25, 2011

13 /s/ Michael E. Ricketts

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22 and

23 /s/ Randall I. Marmor

24 Randall I. Marmor (*pro hac vice pending*)
25 Ellen B. VanVechten (*pro hac vice pending*)
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**COMPLAINT FOR RESCISSION AND
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Attorneys for Defendant Certain Underwriters
at Lloyd's, London Subscribing to Professional
Services Liability Policy SUA 12139

**COMPLAINT FOR RESCISSION AND
DECLARATION OF JUDGMENT - 14 of 14**

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